

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-19, and 21-29 were pending in this matter at the time of the Office action. As a result of this amendment, claims 1, 15, 23, 25, and 26 have been amended, claims 30 and 31 have been added, and claim 2 has been canceled. No new matter has been added. The response below is made in view of the amended claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's determination that claims 27-29 are allowed and that claims 2, 8-11, 15-17, and 21-24 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections -- 35 USC §102 and §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 25 and 26 under 35 USC §102(b) as being unpatentable over Gupta (4,515,992). Applicant respectfully traverse the foregoing rejections in view of the above pending claims and for reasons set forth hereafter.

The Examiner has indicated that Gupta '992 provides a solution comprising SBS block copolymer and a hydrocarbon resin in about 80 weight % of toluene. It is also stated that the solvent may be perchloroethylene or trichloroethylene. Therefore, the combinations of SBS block copolymer and the hydrocarbon resin in a solvent of either perchloroethylene or trichloroethylene are also taught by the prior art. Without opining as to the merits of the Examiner's assertion, independent claims 25 and 26 have been amended to recite that the hydrocarbon resin used in each composition is an aromatically modified C5 hydrocarbon resin. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that it is clear that Gupta '992 does not teach or suggest the invention of independent claims 25 and 26. In particular, Gupta '992 does not teach or suggest a solution utilizing an aromatically modified C5 hydrocarbon resin in conjunction with a styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene (SE/BS) block copolymer dissolved in a non-flammable solvent system including at least one chlorinated organic solvent. Also, in particular, Gupta '992 does not teach or suggest a composition utilizing an aromatically modified C5 hydrocarbon resin in conjunction with a block copolymer selected from the group consisting of styrene-isoprene-

styrene block copolymers, styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymers, and styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymers and mixtures thereof and a solvent system of comprising about 80% to about 99% ethylene tetrachloride. Thus, the amendments to independent claims 25 and 26 should distinguish over Gupta '992 and are now believed to be in allowable condition. Also, since dependent claims 29-30 depend directly from claim 26, it is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims also define allowable subject matter as well.

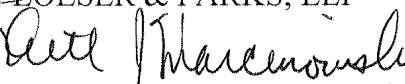
The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-7, 13, 14, 18, and 19 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. (4,853,069) and has rejected claims 1, 3-7, 13, 14, and 18 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Skelly (5,610,239) in view of Chu et al. (5,177,163), or Muse (4,011,178). Applicant respectfully traverse the foregoing rejections in view of the above pending claims and for reasons set forth hereafter. Claim 2 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. With this amendment, and without opining to the merits of the rejection, the limitations of claim 2 have been incorporated into claim 1 to pass the application to issuance. Thus, the amendment to independent claim 1 should distinguish over Williams '069 and Skelly '239 in view of Chu et al. '163, or Muse '178 and is now believed to be in allowable condition. Also, since dependent claims 3-7, 13, 14, 18, and 19 depend directly from claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims also define allowable subject matter as well.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3-11, 13-19 and 21-31 are in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration of this application and allowance of these claims are requested. If the Examiner should have any questions regarding this application or the amendment, a call to Applicant's attorney would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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